

Hello!

Granting this petition is going to seriously hurt the independent ISPs. The "moms and pops" who took the risks of being our neighborhoods' first internet service providers and who made the internet what it is today---those of whom who have struggled and actually succeeded to remain competitive and in business, that is---would be subject to rate hikes, or worse, even denied the opportunity to sell highspeed service at all.

Take my ISP, for example, Sonic.Net. This company was started over ten years ago by a couple of community college students in their parents' garage. They now have over 35,000 customers and are considered the region's #1 ISP. They have excellent, responsive support, and actually offer more features (the features I need!) than what would be my only highspeed alternatives should this petition be granted.

I speak from a little experience, as I am a web designer and programmer who is regularly in contact with many different ISPs around the nation. In my experiences, what you'll get from Sonic.Net is going to be far superior to anything you'll find from the "big guys" in terms of not only features but in customer service as well. They really will go (as they have many times!) completely out of their way and bend over backwards to help a customer however they can. You just don't find that from the big companies.

Allowing BellSouth (and the other companies that would likely follow suit) to no longer be subject to the regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like Sonic.net, ultimately limits my choice in the future as to whom I can choose for service should Sonic.net (and all other independent ISPs) no longer be able to offer the same service and value (if even at all).

Please consider that there are many, many customers out there who have chosen to stay with (or switch over to) an independent ISP for a reason, and that this petition will ultimately cripple all independent ISPs in the long run should this petition be granted.

Thank you,
Michael Yeary